

## Positive Alternatives 2014 - 16 Quarterly Update

**Grantee: CRADLE OF HOPE**

**Goal: To provide housing assistance and portable cribs to pregnant women and their babies**

**For the period: April 01, 2016 – June 19, 2016**

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description <small>Major Work Plan Activities</small>	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments <small>Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.</small>	Report Count
<b>Administrative Activities</b>	Maintain application approval process; distribute program materials as needed; maintain, train and manage volunteers; train referral agencies; maintain or replace existing Crib-sites		<p>Brittany Wiese (Program Director) continues to visit partnering agencies throughout the metro in order to become better acquainted and strengthen relationships. She has also taken this opportunity to inform them of changes taking place and the upcoming expansion of the organization. During the visit our agency advocates are provided with a Partnering Agency Orientation Packet which includes a new upgraded application, application guidelines, as well as a Safe Sleep information pamphlet. This new orientation process will hopefully provide clear guidance in our procedures and expectations, as well as build a personal relationship with those we partner with. Thus far it is proven to be helpful and our partnering agencies' responses have been overwhelming.</p> <p>As mentioned, we have expanded our services and updated our application. In April our agency hosted a Partnering Agency Spring Brunch. We invited 50 major (agencies we have regular communication with on a monthly basis) partnering agencies from throughout the state of Minnesota. Of the 50, 25 representatives were in attendance. An orientation on the new application was provided and upon leaving all were provided with copies to begin using. Also previously mentioned, we are continuing to launch the new application process by orientating agencies throughout the metro who were not able to attend the brunch. The feedback from the new application has been very positive.</p> <p>In addition to the new application, we have also recruited</p>	

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			three new agencies to partner with us. Though these agencies are primarily in the Twin Cities Metro area, we are still diligently working to reach out to Greater Minnesota to reach more agencies in attempts to assist those in the rural communities.	
<b>Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education</b>	Provide newborns with portable cribs (Pack 'N Plays)	116	<p>Although we did exhaust funds last quarter for this part of our program, we did not turn a single application down for future processing when funds would be available, and anyone seeking immediate emergency access to a crib was directed to a crib-site in their area.</p> <p>As always, we have processes in place to be sure women are provided sleep safety education before the Pack 'N Plays are distributed to them.</p>	0
<b>Housing Assistance</b>	Provide funding for housing assistance	38	We continued to meet, and exceed, our goal for rent this quarter. Each application received for rental assistance is considered carefully, and where the need is justified we are pleased to help. Our goal is always to help a mother become sustained and empowered; we are pleased that we are able to provide them the opportunity to stay in their homes.	46

<b>Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies</b>	<b>No.</b>
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0

<b>Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies</b>	<b>No.</b>
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	0
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	0

**Challenges:** As we have become established in our roles, and have become more acquainted with our agency, we have found it to be a challenge reaching our 200+ agencies we partner with statewide. However, we have made extra efforts to meet personally on a regular basis to establish relationships, and build rapport, with our partnering agencies in hopes to open communication and in turn help more mothers and children.

**Comments:** We continue to appreciate and are encouraged by the MN Department of Health's consistent support of our program—*particularly* at this time when we are transitioning with new staff and expanding our agency. Once more, thank you for your patience as we become acclimated and we are eager to carry on the COH torch!